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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

China

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SUBJECT

Recruiting Procedure, Tast China

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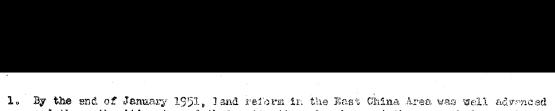
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- and the authorities turned their attention elsewhere. A three months' campaign was initiated to recruit volunteers for the Chinese Communist Army (CAA).
- 2. In addition to the normal militia("erued civilians"), volunteers were energetically sought for the regular army, especially soung year farmers whose new holding of land after the redistribution was still inadequate to maintain all the sons of the family.
- 3. Volunteers between 15 and 35 were called for, but younger boys down to 15 years of age were arcented if their physique was good enough.
- 4. The children of rich fermers and landowners (either former or surviving) were not accepted, even if they volunteered. Most volunteers came from poor families.
- 5. By 30 April, 140,000 volunteers were claimed from Bast China as a whole. Placings, judged on a population basis, were amounced as follows:

1st - South Flangsu

2nd - West Chekiang

3rd - (tied) North Fukien and East Chekiang

last- North Kiangsu

- Most villages supplied 15-20 volunteers. Those from Shanghai were generally better educated than the rest, many being middle school students.
- 7. The besic unit of the recruiting carbeign was the administrative village, where the technique adopted was as follows:

a. All healthy young men of suitable age vers listed and divided into groups, with a Communist cadre man res onsible for each. His job was to rally his group to Resist America and Aid Korea meetings, the agends of which he and his fellow cadres decided in educace. "Flunteers were called for at the end of every such meeting.

b. At these meetings, the ordres would first get up and harangue the audience

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about the benefits conferred by Land Reform, whereby the confarmers, formerly destined to a life of coverty and enslavement, were now indeendent masters of the land. Then they stressed the gravity of the outlook in Korea, where the imperialists had started an appressive war with the object not only of occupying the whole of Korea, but also of marching into Landauria and restoring the Retionalists to ower. If the Nationalists returned to the mainland (said the cadres) the farmers would again be disposeessed of their land and enslaved for life.

- c. The audience were then asked whether they wanted to help the North Koreans to resist America and defend China, to which they naturally had to realy "Tes". Then volunteers were called for and every young man present who did not dere disclaim the intention was hailed as a volunteer. If any young man worth having declined to volunteer at these meetings, he was later singled out and "got at" by mersuasion and moral pressure until he gave in.
- 8. Once one grow in a village had secured some volunteers, it would challenge the next group to produce as many; a sur rising number of volunteers were round in by these correctitive methods.
- The Communist "call for volunteers" thus wroved more difficult to evade than the former Nationalist lottery system, from which one could always run away.
- 10. Each village had a quote to fill, and as soon as this was reached, or when it felt that no further volunteers could possibly be expected, the volunteers would be sent, with great come and circumstance, to the heigh city, and thence to the headquarters of the district government. Here they were well received, with sumstance meals (plenty of meet and fish) and free comforts from various organizations and shows.
- 11. When the continuents from all the villages had assembled, they were given a feast, attended by all the military civil notabilities of the district. Then they were given a good send-off, for which the military and most of the gogulation turned out, and the district political representative were full dress and carried a red bouquet. Drumers' and folk-dance teams took part in the procession, the trade unions handed over "banners" and a good many firecrackers would be let off.
- 12. After the volunteers had departed, their families were fairly well cared for.

 In country districts, 200 carties of rice were raised by local contribution for the family of each volunteer; in Shanghai his factory usually gave the family a monthly cash allowance.
- 13. If the volunteer's family could not till the land he had left behind, a working party was formed from the young ensants who had not volunteered; and these were required to till the land and guarantee a certain yield, making up any shortage from their own produce.
- 14. If necessary the Momen's Service Cor's would errange to do housework for the volunteers' families, and there were rice reductions for ther at musement shows. The families were entitled to ut outside their front door a ratice board saying "Clorious Family of volunteers" (定案字篇)。

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